

## Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 DRC-01 AF-10 OPR-02 NIC-01 OMB-01 /148 W  
----- 048138

R 221110Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4847

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12336

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS LE IS UR

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 12321

1. BEIRUT LEFTIST PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS BEGUN REGURGITATING SOV LINE (PARA 2 REFTEL) THAT LEBANON NEEDS SAM MISSILES AND THAT SIXTH FLEET REFUELING AT TAPLINE. DEPUTY KAMAL JUMBLATT AFTER HIS RETURN FROM HIS LATEST TRIP TO INDIA DEMANDED ON OCT 21 THAT THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ACQUIRE SAM'S TO PROTECT LEBANESE AIR SPACE AND PREVENT ISRAELI PLANS FROM USING LEBANESE SKIES ON THEIR WAY TO ATTACK SYRIA.

2. THIS SOVIET/LEFTIST ATTEMPT TO FISH IN MUDDY WATERS AND PUSH THEIR PET THEMES HAS IRRITATED THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES. FOR EXAMPLE PM SOLH WAS OUTRAGED BY AL-MUHARRIR'S FRONT PAGE (OCT 21) STORY ABOUT THE SIXTH FLEET REFUELING AT ZAHRANI. HE TOLD MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT, AS WELL AS PERSONALLY BLASTING PUBLISHER AND  
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EDITOR OF AL-MUHARRIR ON PHONE. WE ARE TOLD HE ALSO VERY ANGRY

AT SOV EMBASSY. GOL PULLED OUT ALL THE STOPS IN THE PRESS, RADIO AND TV DENYING THAT THE ZAHRANI FACILITY WAS SUPPLYING THE SIXTH FLEET AND DESCRIBED AL-MUHARRIR'S STORY AS PURE INVENTION AND DEVOID OF ALL TRUTH. MIN OF PETROLEUM SENT THE MATTER TO THE PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TO UNDERTAKE LEGAL ACTION.

3. GOL OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS KEENLY AWARE OF IMPORTANCE MAINTAINING CONTROL OVER INTERNAL SECURITY, INCLUDING WHAT EVER RESTRAINTS THEY CAN APPLY TO IRRESPONSIBLE BEIRUT PRESS. THIS WAS CLEARLY EXEMPLIFIED BY THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF THE BANK OF AMERICA INCIDENT. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND THE MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE STRONGLY SUPPORT DETERMINED AND FIRM RESPONSE TO LAWLESSNESS AND BELIEVE IT WILL DISCOURAGE SIMILAR ACTS FROM OCCURRING IN THE FUTURE. BUFFUM

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROPAGANDA, WAR, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL LEADERS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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30 JUN 2005

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**Subject:** IMPACT OF SOVIET PROPAGANDA IN LEBANON  
**TAGS:** PINS, LE, IS, UR  
**To:** STATE  
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